Much as the accident is a matter of regret and deep sorrow for us all, I would like to take this opportunity of assuring the House that there has never been, nor will there ever be, any compromise with air safety in domestic or international air transport operations. Every aircraft operating in the country is subjected to the most stringent airworthiness checks and our system of regulation and control is as comprehensive as can be.

Even so, and after considering all aspects of the matter, Government have appointed Air Marshal (Retd) S.S. Ramdas, former Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Airlines, as the Court of Inquiry under Rule 75 of Aircraft Rules, 1937 to carry out the formal investigations into the accident. The Court of Inquiry has been specifically requested to give immediate findings on whether operations to Bhuntar airport have any technical shortcomings and, if so, to suggest remedial measures thereof, particularly in adverse weather conditions

I would also like to inform the Hon Members that I have directed a 100 percent safety audit of every aircraft operating in the private sector

This is being done in addition to the mandatory checks which are already in operation to ensure flight safety in domestic operations

As the hon Members are aware, there has been a tremendous growth in the air transport industry after its demonopolisation Even under this rapid expansion process, the air safety aspect has not been allowed to be compromised Procedures involving air safety are reviewed from time to time in consultation with the operators and necessary preventive steps are taken I wish to convey to this House that the Ministry of Civil Aviation and its organisations are making every possible effort to ensure safe air transportation in the country and there is no cause for concern in the matter.

I will conclude by conveying our heart-felt condolences and deep sympathies for the members of the bereaved families

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(Interruptions)

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN Hon Members, all statements hat have been made are on important issues and it s natural that many hon Members may want to speak omething. But as it happens, the statements have een made under Rule 372 on which no further discussion takes place . *(Interruptions)* Hon Members can give notices on these subjects through other forms and the Hon. Speaker can consider those notices. I absolutely agree that these are really important subjects This is one way of doing things

The other way of doing things is just to start discussion by all of you at the same time and start a bedlam in the House. You have to decide which one is to be preferred. You must tell me ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) . I have already given a notice.. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats first All of you are standing together at a time Let us go through some procedure. There has to be a particular way.

(Interruptions)

DR. ASIM BALA (Navadwip) I want to raise one issue

MR CHAIRMAN . Every one is making one issue One or two or may be more hon. Members may be on the same issue.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra) I want my Call Attention Notice to be taken up

MR CHAIRMAN That is in the discretion of the Hon Speaker You can give some other notice also and have a talk with him

Please do have a talk with him. At the moment sit down, please.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN Madam, I have given a Call Attention Notice

MR CHAIRMAN What can be done now? Many other hon Members also must have given some notices on it

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN My submission is that Justice D P Sood, who was appointed as the one-man Inquiry Commission in the air crash in which Shri Surendranath, the ex-Governor of Punjab died had made certain suggestions He gave a Report But that Report has not been considered The Government of India has not ensured that those instructions given are carried out If they had been carried out, there would have been no such accidents Had that Report been considered this accident would not have taken place *(Interruptions*

MR. CHAIRMAN You have made your point That is all Since you have made your point what I will say is that now six Members raise their hands I will give two minutes each, not more than that Now, Shri Chennithala to speak

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) Madam, two hon Minister had already left Who will reply to the question on their behalf? Now, only the hon. Minister of External Affairs is sitting here

MR CHAIRMAN If you agree and if the Ministers are there, we can proceed Otherwise, you can discuss it by giving a proper notice This is what I

have suggested. Sit down, please. I will give two minutes to each speaker.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : May I make a submission? In this House, it is the established convention that on the statement, there is no clarification sought or given. What we are now doing is a departure from that convention.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is what I said. Under that rule, no clarification can be sought or no discussion can be started. This is the position. Shall I read it out? Though we have been doing it, it is not permitted.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : That is not the convention of the House. In the Upper House, whatever statement is made, even for the whole day Members can seek clarifications and answers are given by the Ministers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are such an old Member. You should have already made the rules different for Lok Sabha!

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : There is no such provision here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shall we proceed?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : As per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, this should not be discussed now itself. They should give another notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you go on doing like this, then, I have to stop it and call Kumari Mamata Banerjee to resume her speech which is according to the rules.

16.34 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Steep Pre-Budget Hike in the Administered Prices of Petrol, LPG, Diesel and other Petroleum products - Contd.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, I am grateful to you for calling me.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) Madam, I am on a point of information. I think the debate will be concluded today. I would like to know at what time the Minister will reply to the debate. If that information is given to us just now, it will be better so that Members will come back to the House. The reply may be at 5 p.m. or 5.30 p.m. The time should be fixed for the reply. If that is done, that will help us

MR CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much. It is a very good point. Kumari Mamata Banerjee, please continue your speech and conclude it quickly. In the mean time, we will reply.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, you will appreciate that I started my speech and because of the statements, I just sat down. Now, let me finish my speech.

This is a very serious issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken quite a long time. Kindly conclude quickly.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I have been disturbed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever you have said, all those points are on record. Please conclude quickly.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Coming to my point, I would like to mention that the prices of High Speed Diesel and LPG, the two singular items which govern the everybody life of the ordinary citizens, have put a burden on the citizens. That is why, I would like to say that it is better to reduce the prices Further, it is better to cut 10 percent of the non-Plan Budget. But instead of cutting the non-Plan Budget, if we put a burden on the poor people, then how will the common man survive?

I have a request to make to all the party leaders The Members of Parliament travel by the Executive Class while performing their air journey. May I suggest you one thing? If you travel by the Economy Class you will save Rs. 400. I always travel by the Economy Class to save the Government money Instead of staying in the five-star hotels for attending parliamentary committee meetings, why do we not stay in the Circuit House or the State Government Guest House or the Central Governmnet Guest House. This way you will curtail the budget and this will help the poor people If you follow this first, then others will follow it. If you do not follow it, others will not follow it. First you show the way to others, then they will show you. That is my request to the Prime Minister.

Regarding lunch and dinner hospitalities, on behalf of this country, my suggestion is that instead of hiking the price of LPG, you stop showing this lunch and dinner hospitalities to others, except foreigners. We are bound to show hospitality to foreigners. But we should not do it for making lobbies, for improving relations with one another This way, we spend lots and lots of money. If you ask me, for this purpose, - I am ready - you talk to all the political leaders - we are ready to donate one year's salary to the Government so that this way, the Government can save some money. My only request is that the mobilisation of resources be done with a greater prudence in Government spending and not by taxing the scarce resources or cheating the ordinary citizens in this country. Let us start austerity from among ourselves. There should not be a price hike of LPG and diesel Of course, the Prime Minister has decreased the price of diesel by 15 percent. My